

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-9 have been cancelled, and claims 10-27 have been added. Thus, claims 10-27 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seto et al. (U.S. 6,088,229); and claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seto et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed in part. Furthermore, these rejections are believed moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-9, and are believed clearly inapplicable to the new claims 10-27, for the following reasons.

With exemplary reference to the drawing figures, claim 10 sets forth an information terminal comprising: a case 1 having a memory device accommodating section 75 for accommodating a detachable memory device 77; a locking device 13 fixed to the case 1 and being changeable between a locked state and an unlocked state by a lock manipulation part 12, the locking device 13 remaining fixed to the case 1 in both the locked state and the unlocked state; a lid 5, movable between an open state (e.g. Fig. 2) and a closed state (e.g. Fig. 1), for covering the memory device accommodating section 75 and preventing removal of the detachable memory device 77 when in the closed state; and an interlocking lock mechanism (e.g. 17, 63, etc. in Figs. 1-3, and 79 in Fig. 4) operably interlocked with the locking device 13 for

retaining the lid 5 in the closed state when the locking device 13 is in the locked state, and for allowing opening of the lid 5 when the locking device 13 is in the unlocked state.

In contrast to the present invention of claim 10, the Seto et al. patent discloses an information terminal with a locking device 32 that is detachably connectable to a lock 31 for preventing theft of the information terminal 1 (see column 8, lines 46-52), and the mechanism for preventing removal of a memory device 22, but does not disclose or suggest a locking device that is fixed to the case in both a locked and unlocked state, and an interlocking lock mechanism that is operably interlocked with the locking device and is operable to retain the lid in the closed state when the locking device is in the locked state, and to allow opening of the lid when the locking device is in the unlocked state.

More specifically, in the embodiments of Figs. 1-11 of Seto et al., the mechanism 40 (including the engaging portion 42 (Figs. 2-9) or 51 (Figs. 10A-11B)). This mechanism 40, 42 or 40, 51 of Seto et al. is operable to retain the memory device 22 in the memory device accommodating section of the case, but is not operable to retain the lid 27 that covers the memory device accommodating section in the closed state when the locking device 32 is in the locked state, and for allowing opening of the lid 27 when the locking device 32 is in the unlocked state, as required by claim 10. Furthermore, the Seto et al. arrangement shown in Figs. 12-14 includes a means for retaining the lid 27 closed, but does not meet the claim 10 limitation requiring the locking device to be fixed to the case in both the locked and the unlocked state, since, in the unlocked state, the locking device 32 of Seto et al. is removed from the case 4 as shown in Fig. 13 in Seto et al.

Again with exemplary reference to the drawing figures, independent claim 16 sets forth an information terminal comprising: a case 1 having a memory device accommodating section 75 for accommodating a detachable memory device 77; a locking device 13 mounted to the case 1 and being changeable between a locked state and an unlocked state by a lock manipulation part 12; a lid 5, movable between an open state (e.g. Fig. 2) and a closed state (e.g. Fig. 1), for covering the memory device accommodating section 75 and preventing removal of the

detachable memory device 77 from the memory device accommodating section 75 when in the closed state; and an interlocking lock mechanism (e.g. 17, 63, etc. in Figs. 1-3 or 79 in Fig. 4) operably interlocked with the locking device 13 for retaining the lid 5 in the closed state when the locking device 13 is in the locked state, and for allowing opening of the lid 5 when the locking device 13 is in the unlocked state; wherein the interlocking lock mechanism comprises a member (e.g. 63 or 79) extending away from the locking device 13 such that a position at which the interlocking lock mechanism engages the lid 5 when retaining the lid in the closed state is remote from the locking device 13.

Thus, as discussed above with respect to claim 10, the embodiments of Figs. 1-11 of Seto et al. include a mechanism 42, 51 for retaining the memory device 22 in the memory device accommodating section, but do not disclose or suggest an interlocking lock mechanism that is operable to retain the lid 27 in the closed state when the locking device is in the locked state, and for allowing opening of the lid 27 when the locking device is in the unlocked state. Furthermore, none of the embodiments of Seto et al. disclose or suggest an interlocking lock mechanism such as required by claim 16 that includes a member extending away from the locking device 32 such that a position at which the interlocking lock mechanism engages the lid 27 when retaining the lid in the closed state is remote from the locking device, as required by claim 16.

Again, with exemplary reference to the drawing figures, independent claim 22 sets forth an information terminal comprising: a case 1 having a memory device accommodating section 75 for accommodating a detachable memory device 77; a power switch 59 mounted to the case 1 for enabling at least one of powering the information terminal on and powering the information terminal off; a locking device 13 mounted to the case and being changeable, by a lock manipulation part 12, between a locked state in which the locking device 13 prevents the power switch 59 from being operated, and an unlocked state in which the locking device 13 allows the power switch 59 to be operated; a lid 5, movable between an open state (e.g. Fig. 2) and a closed state (e.g. Fig. 1), for covering the memory device accommodating section 75 and preventing removal of the detachable memory device 77 from the memory device accommodating section 75

when in the closed state; and an interlocking lock mechanism (e.g. 17, 63, etc. in Figs. 1-3 and 79 in Fig. 4) operably interlocked with the locking device 13 for retaining the lid 5 in the closed state when the locking device 13 is in the locked state, and for allowing opening of the lid 5 when the locking device 13 is in the unlocked state.

Again, in Figs. 1-11 of Seto et al., there is no disclosure or suggestion of an interlocking lock mechanism for retaining the lid 27 in the closed state when the locking device is in the locked state, and for allowing opening of the lid 27 when the locking device is in the unlocked state, since the mechanisms 42, 51 simply prevent removal of the memory device 22, and do not retain the lid 27 in the closed state. Furthermore, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Seto et al. patent that the locking device 32 is operable, in the locked state, to prevent the power switch from being operated, and in the unlocked state to allow the power switch to be operated, as required by claim 22.

For the above reasons, it is believed clear that the Seto et al. patent does not disclose or suggest the features required by any of the independent claims 10, 16 and 22. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the Seto et al. patent or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention as recited in the independent claims 10, 16 and 22. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10, 16 and 22, as well as the claims which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the dependent claims 11-15, 17-21 and 23-27 which set forth additional feature of the present invention and further define the present invention over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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